

(a)-(d) being performed in the same electroplating platform and in the same environment.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 24, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 24, 2003. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application and are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-30, 38-40, and 42-46, drawn to a method, classified in class 438, subclass 745.
- II. Claims 31-37 and 41, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 156, subclass 345.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-30, 38-40, and 42-46, with traverse. The apparatus claims substantially correspond to the method claims and would not require a separate search.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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